

The Bay Institute  
League of Women Voters  
Mono Lake Committee

June 19, 2000

Mike Madigan, Chair  
Sunne McPeak, Vice-Chair  
Bay-Delta Advisory Council  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mike and Sunne,

As many have said, you both did a masterful job of weaving the interests of the Bay Delta Advisory Committee members into a coherent guide for the Governor and the Policy Group to use in making final decisions about the CALFED Bay Delta Preferred Program Alternative. We thank you for your patience and good humor, and we thank the CALFED staff for their very able support of BDAC and the many work products that BDAC spawned.

We are pleased to see your letter bring some closure on our five years of listening and learning from each other. While we are in general agreement with many aspects of your letter, we must highlight a few reservations, particularly ones of omission.

The BDAC Governance Work Group proposed an Eco Conservancy as the best way to coordinate restoration of the Bay Delta ecosystem, whether there is a broader Bay-Delta Commission to run all of CALFED or not. While this idea had widespread support from stakeholders, the Conservancy seems to have been lost during recent discussions about a Commission. We believe an Eco Conservancy is an essential decision-making and ecosystem restoration element, and we will continue to work directly with the Policy Group on this issue.

We appreciate your including in the sections on storage facilities construction (# 8) and construction of the functional equivalent of the Delta Cross Channel in Stage 1 (#10) wording that final decisions should be based on findings that demonstrate such structures are among the most economically-efficient, environmentally-sound, equitable and just means to achieve one or more approved CALFED objectives. These sections, however, do not say that surface storage structures and a functional equivalent of the Delta Cross Channel **shall** meet the economic, environmental, and environmental justice criteria you added. We hope you will help us make sure these criteria are used by Federal and State decision-makers as they finalize the ROD.

Thank you, too, for including in your letter many of the recommendations made by environmental justice groups. These additions greatly strengthened all of the points you have made on the Preferred Program Alternative. We have read the additional recommendations made by Torri Estrada in his May 23 letter to you, and we support those additions.

We look forward to continuing to work within the on-going CALFED process as we apply staged decision-making and adaptive management principles to resolving conflicts over water issues, restoring the health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem, and helping meet needs for agricultural, urban, and environmental uses.

Sincerely,

*Hap Dunning*

Hap Dunning  
The Bay Institute

*Roberta Borgonovo*

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League of Women Voters  
Of California

*Frances Spivy Weber*

Frances Spivy-Weber  
Mono Lake Committee